

BLACK DIAMOND
WESTERN

THE FAST-ACTION WESTERN!

AUTHORIZED
A. C. M. P.

CONFORMS
to the
COMICS
CODE



10¢

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

DEC.
NO. 41

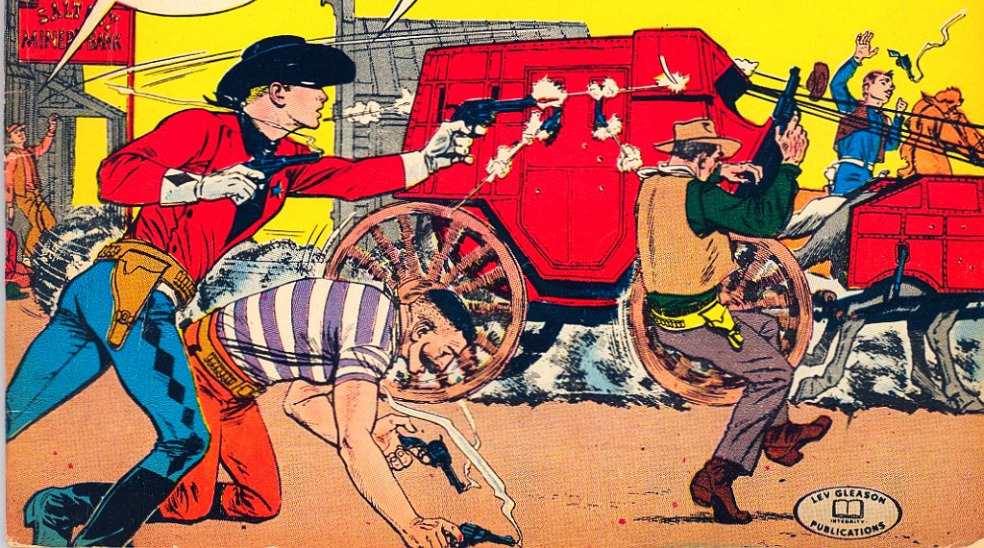
LEV GLEASON, PUB., CHARLES BIRO AND BOB WOOD, EDITORS

3

FEATURE-LENGTH
BLACK DIAMOND
STORIES!

WE DIDN'T
HAVE A CHANCE!
THEY SHOT
US WITHOUT A
WARNING!

NOBODY
STANDS A CHANCE
AGAINST THOSE
BANDITS—THEIR
COACH IS ARMOR-
PLATED!



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THE
SENSATIONAL
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Whittlewaist
by **CHIQUE**

REDUCES

YOUR APPEARANCE

up to **2 to 4 INCHES**

4 to 6 Years Younger

instantly!

Never before has any foundation taken so many years off your figure — so comfortably, so surely! You'll feel younger, look better, walk more erectly. You'll thrill to every peek in a mirror—to every admiring, envious glance.

Say goodbye to bulges, to misplaced curves — here's perfection as you never dared expect it. This amazing new Whittlewaist literally whittles away rolls and bulges, adjusts to exactly the contours you want — a new figure at your fingertips.



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CORSELETTE**

Never before so many custom features at this low price. From the top of the bra to the bottom of the girdle, your complete figure is re-molded to contours of alluring beauty. Your bust is perfectly proportioned to your figure. Inches disappear from hips, waist and thighs. Your figure all-ways under perfect control. Flexible Nylon Leno elastic between bra and girdle prevents unsightly midriff "roll"—gives every figure a custom fit. Pink or White. Bust measurements 2"-4" larger. Bust measurements 34-44. "B" sizes 34-44. "C" cup. **\$798**

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**WHITTLEWAIST
CORSELETTE**



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**10-DAY FULL MONEY-BACK
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Wear an amazing Whittlewaist Girdle or Corsette by Chique for 10 days without risk.

Remember—Whittlewaist must take inches off your waist and tummy, must give you comfortable support, must give you slimmer thighs, narrower hips — must make your clothes look and fit better — or it costs you nothing! Order NOW!

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☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay price, plus postage and C.O.D. fees.
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Bust Size..... Address.....

Color..... City..... Zone..... State.....

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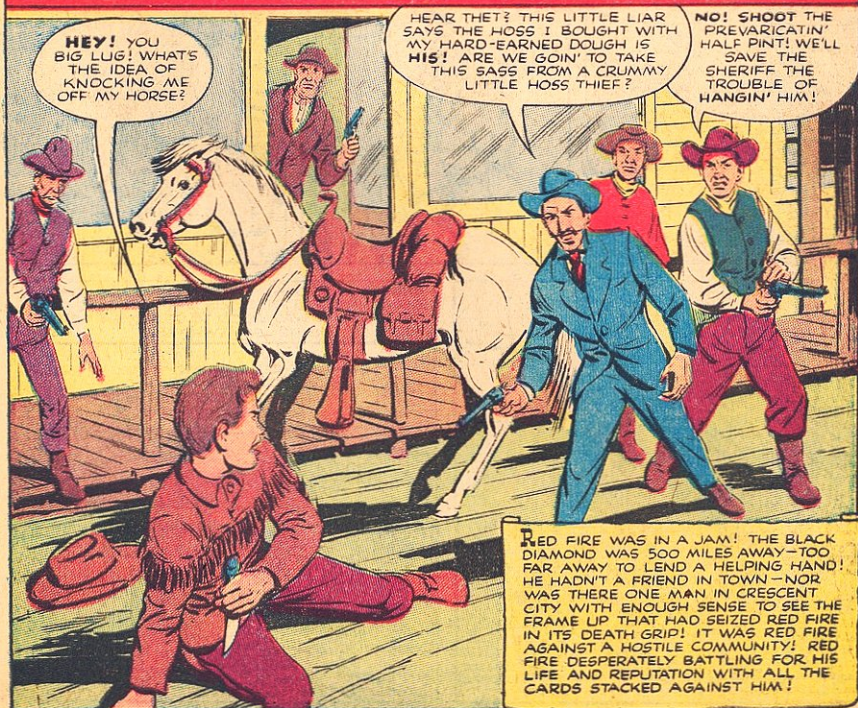
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RED FIRE

IN "THE FACE OF THE NOOSE"



IT WAS A BLAZING HOT NOON IN AUGUST, 1876...THREE FAST FRIENDS WERE TAKING LEAVE OF ONE ANOTHER...



GOT THE DOOR LOCKED, BUMPER?

YEP! GOT ALL THE PACKS STRAPPED ON?

MINE IS! GOT ENOUGH GRUB HERE TO FEED ME FOR WEEKS!

I RECKON YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO VISITIN' YOUR OLD INDIAN PALS, EH, SON?

NOT HALF AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO GO WITH YOU AND BUMPER ON THIS MAN-HUNT!

NOW, LAD! WE'VE SETTLED THAT! THIS IS ONE TIME YOU CAN'T COME ALONG! THIS IS MAN'S WORK!



THAT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS TELL ME! I MUST WAIT TILL MY HAIR TURNS GREY BEFORE YOU COUNT ME IN ON YOUR POSSESSES?

EASY, LAD—YOU KNOW YOU'VE GONE ALONG WITH US ON MANY JOBS, BUT THE U.S. ARMY'S RUNNING THIS SHOW IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT FOR A YOUNGSTER TO RIDE WITH BEARDED TROOPS!

WHEN YOU GET TO CRESCENT CITY, SEND ME A TELEGRAM AT FORT MANLEY—THEN I'LL KNOW YOU ARRIVED SAFELY! DON'T FORGET!

DON'T LOOK SO GRUMPY, LAD! THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME TO CHASE OUTLAWS!

OKAY, BUMPER! HAVE A SWELL TRIP AND GOOD HUNTING!

YOU TOO, RED FIRE!

BE CAREFUL—AND DON'T FORGET THAT TELEGRAM!

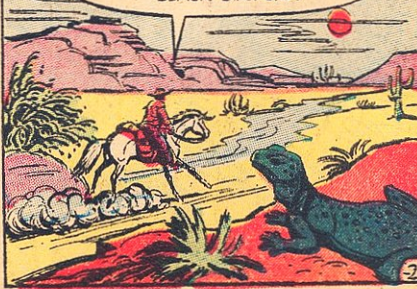


THERE GO THE TWO SWEETEST GUYS IN WORLD, WHITE LIGHTNING! WE'RE LUCKY WE MET 'EM—WELL, WE'VE GOT A LONG RIDE TO CRESCENT CITY AND THE RESERVATION! LET'S MAKE TRACKS!



AND SO WHITE LIGHTNING GALLOPED SOUTH...THE SUN BURNED INTO RED FIRE'S SKIN...THE WIND SANG PAST HIS EARS! IT WAS GOOD TO BE ALIVE...TO BE GOING SOMEWHERE...

IT'LL BE FUN TO VISIT MY FOSTER FATHER, CHIEF KI-MAW-TI! I'LL BRING BACK MOCCASINS AND HUNTING KNIVES FOR BUMPER AND BLACK DIAMOND!



AT NOON, THE FOLLOWING DAY...

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

WHAT A RIDE! NO OTHER HORSE IN THE WEST HAS YOUR ENDURANCE, WHITE LIGHTNING! YOU DESERVE A FINE REWARD! HMM...THERE'S A GENERAL STORE AHEAD!

JUST SIT TIGHT, WHITE LIGHTNING! I'M GOING TO BUY YOU ALL THE APPLES AND SUGAR YOU CAN EAT!

WHINNEY!

AS RED FIRE COMES OUT A MINUTE LATER... SOME PIECE OF HOSS— FLESH, EH? I SEEN HIM IN A TOWN ABOUT FORTY MILES NORTH OF HERE! SOME KID RIDES HIM!

QUIET, LUM! HERE COMES THE KID NOW! HEY YOU! CAN YOUR NAG DO TRICKS?

SURE! HE CAN DO TRICKS! HE CAN DO ANYTHING!

IS THAT SO? MAKE HIM KNEEL! ANY SMART HORSE CAN KNEEL!

WHITE LIGHTNING CAN KNEEL-AND MORE BUT NOT NOW, HE'S TIRED! HE'S COME A LONG WAY!

YOU'RE LYIN'! HE'S A DUMB ANIMAL AND YORE COVERIN' UP FOR HIM!

BELIEVE WHAT YOU LIKE—ONLY NO TRICKS NOW!

I'LL MAKE 'EM DO TRICKS! I SAW 'EM TRAIN HOSSSES AT A CIRCUS ONCE!

THEY HIT 'EM ON THE LEGS LIKE THIS! KNEEL!

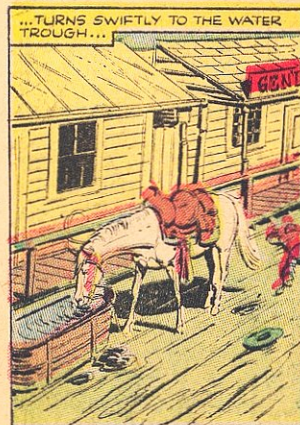
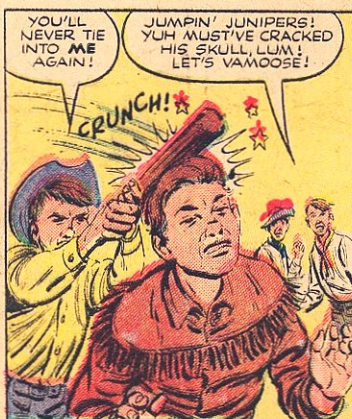
EFEEOOF!

HAW! HAW! SOME HOSS TRAINER! HE'S KNEELIN' LIKE HIS LEG'S BROKE!

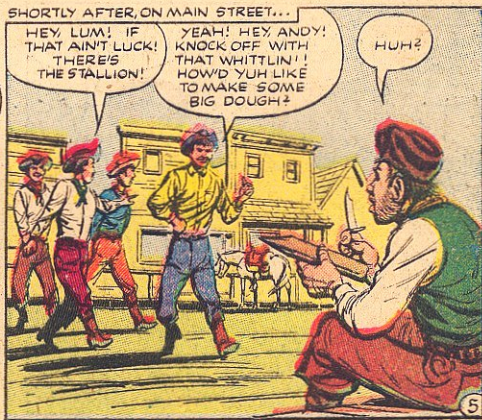
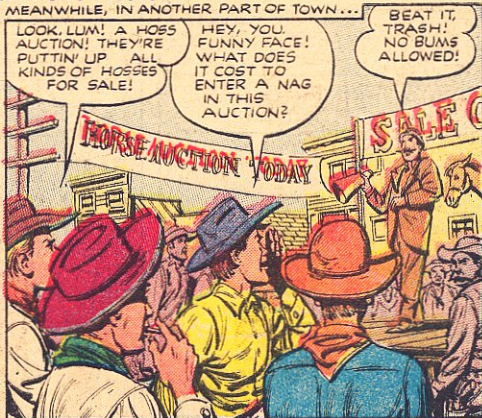
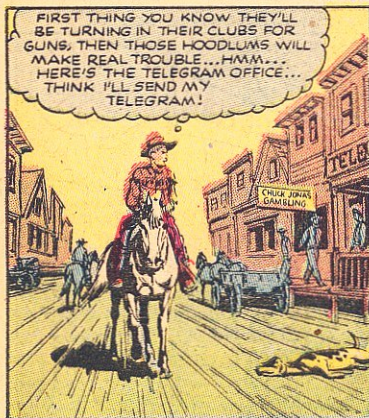
YOU NUMB-SKULL! YOU OULVE BROKEN HIS LEG!

SO WHAT? YUH WANNA MAKE SOMETHIN' OF IT? OR ARE YUH A FAKE LIKE YORE CRUMMY HOSS?

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT! PUT UP YOUR FISTS!



MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN...



...IT'S A FAVOR FOR A GUY WE KNOW—
SEE THAT WHITE HORSE ACROSS THE
STREET? TAKE HIM DOWN TO THE AUCTION
AND SELL 'IM! BRING US THE MONEY
AND WE'LL GIVE YOU
A SILVER
DOLLAR!

B-HA! YEAH? SURE-LUM!
I LIKE, B-HA, TO MAKE
A DOLLAR!



A LITTLE LATER, AT THE AUCTIONEER'S BOOTH...

HMMM... YOU'RE NOT VERY
SMART, MY FRIEND! BUT
YOUR HORSE WILL BRING
A SMART PRICE! WAIT
HERE WHILE I AUCTION
HIM OFF!

LUM...
HE'S TAKIN'
THE HOSS!
WE'RE
RICH!



HEY, CHUCK—
THERE'S WHAT
I CALL A
HOSS! I AIN'T
SEEN ONE
LIKE THAT IN
MY LIFE!

ME NEITHER! I DON'T
CARE WHAT I HAVE TO
PAY—THAT HOSS IS
GOIN' TO BE MINE!

ALL RIGHT, GENTS!
WHAT AM I BID FOR
THIS FINE SPECIMEN
OF EQUINE BEAUTY
AND POWER? LET'S
HEAR YOUR BIDS!

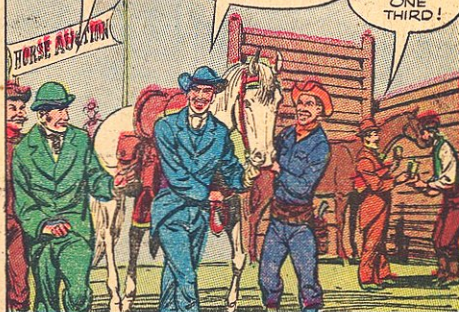


TEN MINUTES LATER...

HE'S WORTH EVERY
NICKEL YOU PAID
FOR HIM,
CHUCK!

YOU SAID IT! I'M
GOING TO HITCH
HIM OUTSIDE OF MY
SALOON, AND SHOW
THIS TOWN WHAT
HOSS FLESH REALLY
LOOKS LIKE!

HERE YOU
ARE, MY
LAD—
\$200!
MY FEE IS
THE USUAL—
ONE
THIRD!



THEN, BEHIND THE AUCTION LOT...

..198...199...
200! TWO
HUNDRED
SIMOLEONS!

NOW DO I GET
MY DOLLAR-LUM?
HUH? NOW?

ALL YUH'LL GET
IS A HOLE IN THE
HEAD, DUMMY!
SEAT IT!



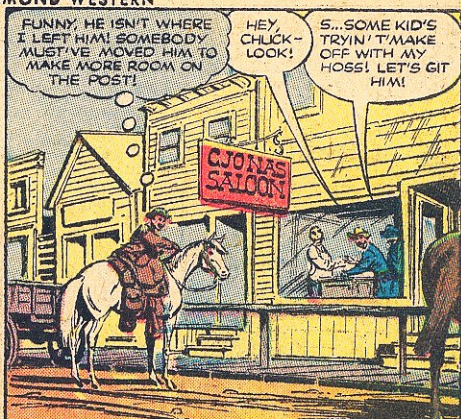
SHORTLY AFTER, IN THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE...

THAT MAKES
120 WORDS!
THAT'LL BE
SIX DOLLARS,
PLEASE!

WHOW!
NEXT TIME
I WON'T
WRITE SO
MUCH! HERE
YOU ARE?

THAT WAS SOME
NAG JONAS JEST
BOUGHT! FINEST
HORSE I SEEN
IN THIRTY
YEARS!





THERE IT IS, IN BLACK AND WHITE! AM I THE OWNER, OR AIN'T I?

IT SURE LOOKS LIKE IT! C'MON, SONNY. I'M LOCKIN' YOU UP! YOU'LL BE SAFER IN JAIL!

SHORTLY AFTER—AS RED FIRE FINISHED HIS STORY TO THE SHERIFF!

SHUT UP, YOU! THE LAW OPERATES BY FACTS! JONAS HAS PROOF OF OWNERSHIP! YOU DON'T! YOU'RE IN A TOUGH SPOT!

IF THE BLACK DIAMOND WERE HERE, HE'D STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT LIKE A SHOT!

...BUT THE BLACK DIAMOND ISN'T HERE...HE'S HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY...WHAT WOULD HE THINK OF ME! THE FIRST TIME I GO OUT ON MY OWN AND I'M IN TROUBLE UP TO MY NECK!

WAIT A MINUTE! THERE'S WHITE LIGHTNING! I GOT AN IDEA!

TWEEEE!

WHITE LIGHTNING ALWAYS OBEYED MY SIGNAL—TWEEE! THAT IT, BOY! THAT'S IT! C'MON!

WHINEEY!

H...HEY!

NICE WORK, WHITE LIGHTNING! NOW MOVE AROUND TO THE FRONT DOOR...I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU...IF JONAS' SHOT GUN DOESN'T BACKFIRE!

SUMMONING THE SHERIFF ON A FALSE PRETENSE, RED FIRE DEMANDED HIS RELEASE AT GUN POINT...

THIS IS THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO, FELLA! I'LL HAVE TO SHOOT YOU ON SIGHT!

I'M SORRY, SHERIFF, BUT I'VE GOT TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE! MAYBE SOME DAY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND!

LEAVING THE TWO LAWMEN LOCKED IN THE CELL, RED FIRE MADE GOOD HIS ESCAPE...

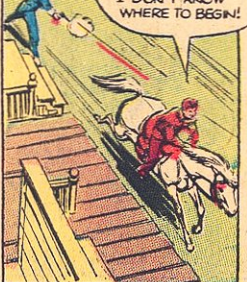
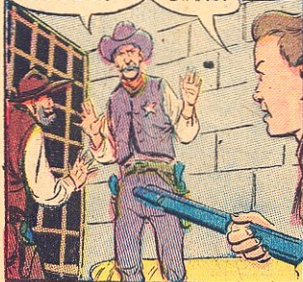
STOP THIEF! STOP!

WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US, WHITE LIGHTNING! THE WORRY OF IT IS, I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN!

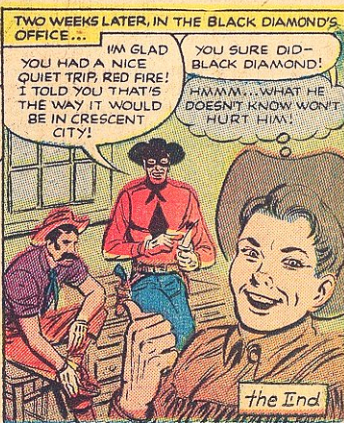
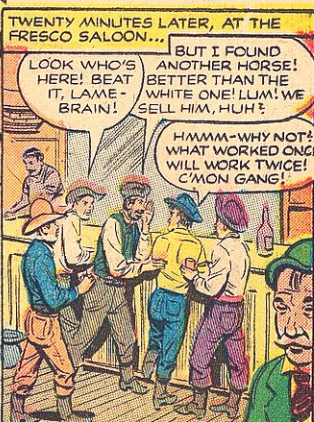
SUDDENLY, AS RED FIRE RACED INTO A SIDE STREET...

IT'S THE WHITE HORSE! STOP! STOP!

WHOA! WHAT'S THE MATTER, FELLER? ARE YOU LOCO? I COULD HAVE RUN YOU DOWN!

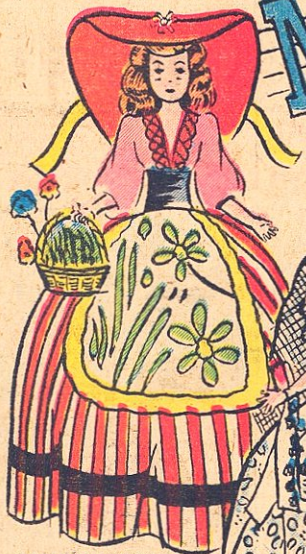


BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



IN THE DAYS OF THE SIX-GUN, THE ONLY ONE WHO CARED ABOUT A SHOOTING VICTIM WAS HIS FAMILY AND IF HE FOUND TIME THE SHERIFF! THAT'S WHY RED FIRE DECIDED TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN A MAJOR CALAMITY THAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN! DON'T MISS "THE BULLEY EATER" IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF "BLACK DIAMOND" ON SALE OCTOBER 31!

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☐ BALLERINA
NEGRO BRIDAL
DOLL

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State _____

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Order any or all of these at our risk. We guarantee satisfaction or your money refunded promptly. Be sure to check which doll or dolls you want.

Empire Merchandising Co.
Pleasantville, New York

BLACK DIAMOND

IN "THE SAGA OF BILLY CLAIBORNE"

I WON'T LISTEN TO YOU, BLACK DIAMOND! YOU SAID YOU'D HELP ME BEFORE AND I SERVED FIVE YEARS! I AIN'T HANGIN' FER A MURDER I DIDN'T COMMIT! OPEN UP, SHERIFF, OR I'LL BLAST YUH!

BILLY, DON'T BE A FOOL! THIS IS WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO DO! IT'S SUICIDE TO WALK OUT OF THAT DOOR! ASK SHERIFF BELL!

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT! YOU'RE LOCO!

EVERY CLUE TO A VICIOUS MURDER INDICATED THE KILLER TO BE EX-CONVICT, BILLY CLAIBORNE...YET BLACK DIAMOND, THE MASKED MARSHAL OF THE PLAINS, TACKLED THE PROBLEM OF PROVING BILLY'S INNOCENCE BY ATTEMPTING TO TRAP THE KILLER!

IT WAS A HOT, DUSTY, SUMMER DAY IN 1878, THAT A STRANGE, YET FAMILIAR FIGURE LOPED LAZILY DOWN THE MAIN STEM OF BRADDOCK...

SAY, THAT HOMBRE LOOKS FAMILIAR!

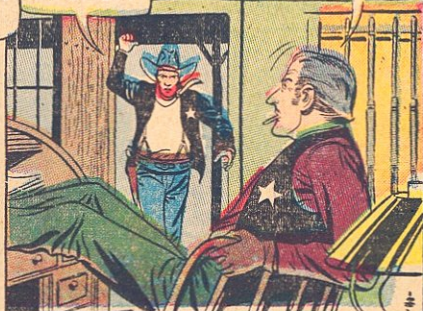
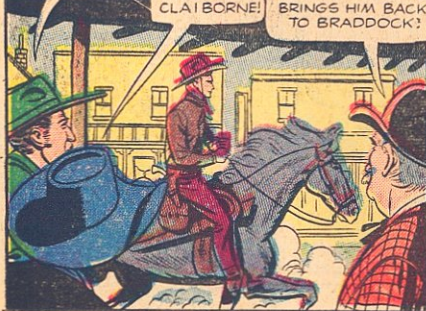
NO WONDER! THAT'S BILLY CLAIBORNE!

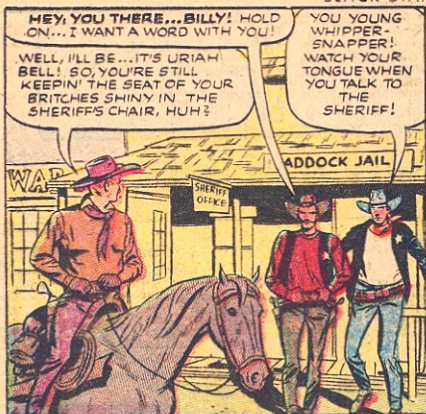
BILLY CLAI...? BUT HE'S S'POSED TO BE IN PRISON! WHUT D'YA SUPPOSE BRINGS HIM BACK TO BRADDOCK?

IN CERTAIN CIRCLES, NEWS TRAVELED FAST IN BRADDOCK...

SHERIFF! BILLY CLAIBORNE'S IN TOWN! HE'S COMIN' DOWN THE STREET!

WHAT? IT CAN'T BE CLAIBORNE! IT CAN'T BE...BUT COME TO THINK OF IT, HIS FIVE YEARS ARE UP! WELL, I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!





HEY, YOU THERE...BILLY! HOLD ON...I WANT A WORD WITH YOU!

WELL, I'LL BE...IT'S URIAH BELL! SO YOU'RE STILL KEEPIN' THE SEAT OF YOUR BRITCHES SHINY IN THE SHERIFF'S CHAIR, HUH?

YOU YOUNG WHIPPER-SNAPPER! WATCH YOUR TONGUE WHEN YOU TALK TO THE SHERIFF!



I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU'D BE COMIN' BACK THIS WAY AFTER YOU GOT OUT! BUT I'LL TELL YA THIS...I DON'T WANT TROUBLE IN BRADDOCK, SO SEE THAT YOU'RE OUTTA TOWN BY SUNDOWN!

...AND YOU GET THIS SHERIFF...AND GET IT STRAIGHT! I SERVED MY TIME AND I'M AS GOOD AS ANYONE ELSE! I'LL GO WHERE I PLEASE... AND WHEN I PLEASE...



YOU'RE NOTHIN' BUT A ROTTEN KILLER, AND YOU SHOULDA BEEN HUNG INSTEAD OF GETTIN' JUST FIVE YEARS! I'M WARNIN' YOU AGAIN, CLAIBORNE--BE OUTTA TOWN BY SUNDOWN OR I'LL ARREST YOU AS A VAGRANT!

HOLD ON THERE, SHERIFF! I GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY ABOUT THAT!

WHY, IT'S HANK JOSLIN!



NOW LISTEN, SHERIFF--A LOT OF FOLKS IN BRADDOCK STILL REGARD BILLY AS AN INNOCENT MAN...WE KNEW AND RESPECTED HIS PAW BEFORE HE WAS KILLED! BUT IF YOU'RE GONNA PERSECUTE THE BOY, I'M OFFERIN' HIM A JOB ON MY NEWS PAPER! THEN, HE WON'T BE VAGRANT!

YOU'RE OBSTRUCTIN' JUSTICE, HANK JOSLIN! YOU AIN'T STOPPED ATTACKIN' ME SINCE I TOOK OVER THE JOB OF SHERIFF!



THAT'S MY PRIVILEGE AS PUBLISHER OF "THE BULLETIN", SHERIFF! LOOK! BILLY'S DAD WAS KILLED HOLDING THE JOB OF SHERIFF AND ALL BILLY WANTS TO DO IS FIND THE KILLER... C'MON, BILLY, I'LL SHOW YOU THE OFFICE!



BILLY CLAIBORNE...THE KILLER! OHHH!

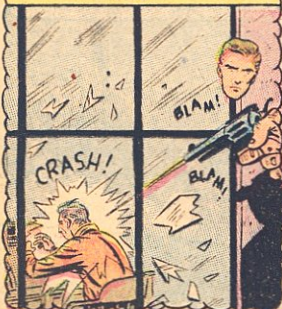
NO, MA'AM! I'M NOT REALLY A KILLER...HONEST!



OH, I'M SORRY...I DIDN'T MEAN TO... THAT IS... I...

I UNDERSTAND, MISS ABBIE...WELL, HERE'S MY STORY! AS YOU KNOW, MY PAW WAS USED TO BE A SHERIFF HERE! I WAS A KID THEN, JUST PAST SEVENTEEN...

DAD WAS AS FEARLESS AND HONEST AS... WELL, AS THE BLACK DIAMOND AND HAD CAPTURED QUITE A PASSES OF OUTLAWS! IT DIDN'T SURPRISE MANY PEOPLE WHEN ONE NIGHT, AS HE WAS WORKIN LATE...



THERE WASN'T A CLUE AS TO THE KILLER! THE NEXT AFTERNOON, BRADDOCK WAS LIKE A GHOST TOWN... EVERYBODY HAD GONE TO THE CEMETARY TO PAY THEIR LAST RESPECTS...

I SWEAR ON MY FATHER'S GRAVE... I WON'T REST UNTIL I SEE HIS KILLER HANGED!

HE'LL BE CAUGHT, BILLY... SOONER OR LATER!



URIAH BELL HAD BEEN DADS DEPUTY... SO AS SOON AS WE GOT BACK FROM THE FUNERAL, HE WAS SWORN IN AS THE NEW SHERIFF... I REMEMBER THINKIN' WHILE I WATCHED...

YOU GOT NO RIGHT TO WEAR MY PAW'S BADGE! YOU'RE NOT HALF THE MAN HE WAS...



BELL DIDN'T SEEM TOO INTERESTED IN FINDING DAD'S KILLER, SO I RESOLVED TO KEEP MY EYES AND EARS OPEN! ONE NIGHT, ABOUT A WEEK LATER...

YEAH, I KNOW WHO KILLED SHERIFF CLAIBORNE! AN' I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE! BUT I AIN'T TALKIN' TO BE STICKIN' MY OWN NECK IN A NOOSE!



THAT DEPUTY'S WORDS HIT DEEP! I WAITED TILL HE LEFT THE SALOON AND FOLLOWED HIM! FINALLY, WHEN NOBODY WAS IN SIGHT I SHOVED HIM INTO AN ALLEY AND...

ALL RIGHT, WHO DID IT? WHO KILLED MY DAD? I HEARD YOU BACK AT THE SALOON! TALK OR I'LL KILL YOU!

BILLY! D. DON'T SHOOT! I... I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING... AGGGHH!



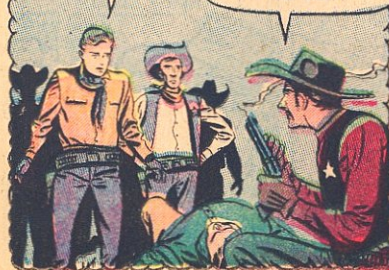
AFTER THE SHOT, I TURNED AND SAW A SHADOW DISAPPEARIN' INTO THE DARKNESS! I FIRED ONE SHOT BUT WHOEVER KILLED THE DEPUTY GOT AWAY...



"I WASN'T EXPECTIN' WHAT CAME NEXT! WHEN I TOLD EVERYBODY WHAT HAD HAPPENED..."

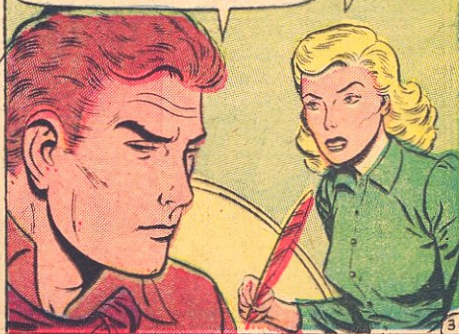
...AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS! WHOEVER FIRED THAT SHOT RAN OFF INTO THE SHADOWS AND I MISSED HIM!

THERE'S ONE BULLET MISSIN' FROM YOUR GUN AND THERE'S ONE BULLET IN MY DEPUTY! I'M ARRESTIN' YOU FOR MURDER, BILLY! LET'S GO PEACEFULLY!



ALL MY TALKIN' COULDN'T CONVINCE 'EM! THEY FOUND ME GUILTY AT THE TRIAL... BUT BECAUSE OF MY AGE, THEY MADE IT SECOND DEGREE AND GAVE ME FIVE YEARS! AN' THAT'S THE HONEST TRUTH, MISS ABBIE!

I'LL WRITE IT JUST AS YOU TOLD IT TO ME, BILLY!



MEANWHILE, TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES WERE ON THE TRAIL HEADED TOWARD BRADDOCK...

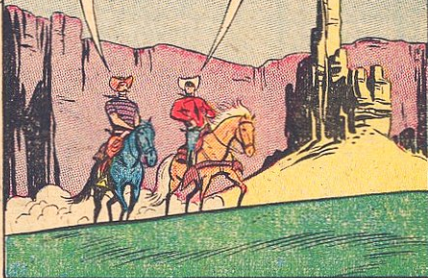
I'M SURE GLAD WE'RE HEADIN' FOR BRADDOCK, DIAMOND! I'M ITCHIN' TO GET MY HANDS ON THOSE HOODED BANDITS WHO'VE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THOSE HOLDUPS!

THAT'S NOT MY ONLY REASON FOR GOING, BUMPER! I WANT TO TALK TO BILLY CLAIBORNE! HE WAS RELEASED TWO DAYS AGO!



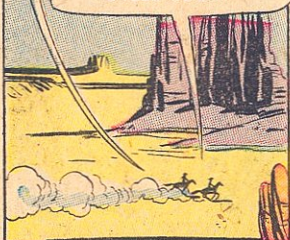
OH, YEAH... I REMEMBER, HEARIN' ABOUT HIM! BUT WHAT D'YOU WANT TO SEE HIM FOR?

HE'S JUST A KID, BUMPER! HE'S GOT ALL OF HIS DAD'S FINER QUALITIES... BUT HE BEARS A RESEMBLANCE AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE HIM GO WRONG! HE SERVED FIVE YEARS FOR A CRIME HE DIDN'T COMMIT!



WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?

JUST PLAIN FAITH, BUMPER! I FOUGHT TOOTH AND NAIL FOR THE RELEASE OF THE BOY, TO NO AVAL! BILLY'S INCAPABLE OF MURDERING A MAN... EXCEPT... HIS DAD'S KILLER! WELL, WE WON'T MAKE TOWN TODAY! WE'LL HAVE TO STOP AND REST THE HORSES SOON!



AND BACK IN BRADDOCK, IN SHERIFF TELLS OFFICE...

I DON'T LIKE HAVIN' THAT CLAIBORNE KID AROUND, BELL! S'POSE HE STARTS SNOOPIN' AROUND FINDS SOMETHIN' OUT!

HE WON'T! MATTER OF FACT, HE'S GONNA COME IN RIGHT HANDY! WE KIN PULL OF A COUPLE OF JOBS AS HOODED OUTLAWS AND LAY THE BLAME ON HIM! AN' I THINK I GOT A WAY TO GET RID OF THAT LOUDMOUTH, HANK JOSLIN, TOO!



WHILE DOWN THE STREET IN THE BULLETIN OFFICE...

I'VE FINISHED WITH BILLY'S STORY, DAD!

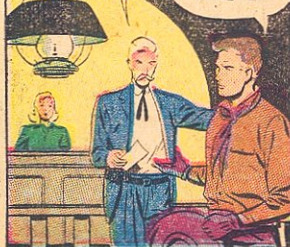
GOOD, ABBIE! NOW MAKE ME OUT A CHECK FOR \$500! BILLY CAN CASH IT! I'M RIDIN' TO BAYVILLE TO ORDER MORE PAPER AND THEY WANT THE MONEY IN COLD CASH!

\$500! THAT'S AN AWFUL LOT OF MONEY TO TOTE AROUND!



I KNOW... BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY THE PEOPLE WHO SELL ME MY NEWSPRINT WILL DO BUSINESS! BESIDES, IT'S ONLY A TWENTY-FIVE MILE TRIP! GO CASH THIS FOR ME AT THE BANK, BILLY! WHEN YOU GET BACK, ABBIE! TEACH YOU HOW TO SET TYPE!

SURE, MR. JOSLIN! I'LL ONLY BE A MINUTE!



I COULD'VE CASHED IT, DAD! WHY'D YOU SEND BILLY? I DUST TRUST HIM!

LISTEN TO ME, ABBIE! I KNEW HIS FATHER... AND I KNEW BILLY AS A BOY! HE'S AS HONEST AS THEY COME! ALL HE NEEDS IS A CHANCE! WE CAN'T BLAME HIM FOR FEELING BITTER - BUT HE'S NO KILLER, ABBIE! UNDERSTAND?



HEY, SHERIFF... THE CLAIBORNE KID JUST WITH-DREW \$500 FROM THE BANK FOR JOSLIN! I SEEN HIM!

\$500. EH... WAIT A MINUTE! YEAH, YEAH, IT SHOULD WORK! HEH, HEH, WE KIN GET RID OF JOSLIN AN' THE KID WITH ONE BLOW! HURRY... GET THE BOYS IN HERE! I GOT A PLAN!



HERE'S THE MONEY, MR. JOSLIN... BUT I STILL THINK IT'S DANGEROUS TO CARRY SO MUCH...

I'LL BE CAREFUL! I'LL START AFTER DINNER TONIGHT AND BE IN BAYVILLE BY MIDNIGHT! I'LL RETURN IN THE MORNING AFTER MAKING THE PURCHASE!



HAVING TAKEN A ROOM IN BRADDOCK'S ONLY HOTEL, BILLY DECIDED TO RETIRE EARLY IN ORDER TO BE ALERT ON THE JOB NEXT DAY! AS HE ENTERED HIS ROOM...

THAT CLOUT'LL HOLD YOU FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS! HAH! RIGHT OUTTA JAIL INTO A HANGMAN'S NOOSE!



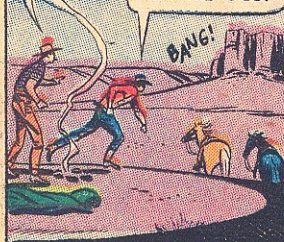
AND THIS BUTTON WILL BE ALL THAT'S NECESSARY TO PROVE YOUR GUILT! TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T GET OUTTA TOWN LIKE BELL TOLD YOU!



AND SHORTLY AFTERWARD, OUT ON THE PLAINS, SEVERAL MILES FROM BRADDOCK...

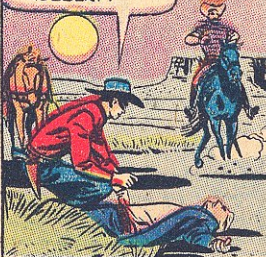
DIAMOND! THAT SOUNDED LIKE A SHOT! NEAR HERE, TOO!

DON'T BE TOO SURE, BUMPER! THE PRAIRIE'S BEEN KNOWN TO ECHO FAR OFF SOUNDS! COME ON... LET'S GO!



WHY, IT'S... BUMPER, IT'S HANK JOSLIN... THE PUBLISHER OF THE BRADDOCK BULLETIN! LOOK AT HIS POCKETS... INSIDE OUT! THE MOTIVE WAS CERTAINLY ROBBERY!

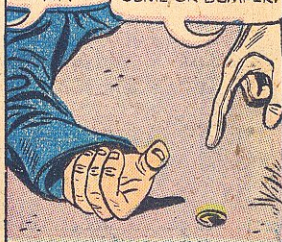
THERE'S NO ONE IN SIGHT, DIAMOND!



WE'D BETTER BREAK CAMP AND HEAD INTO BRADDOCK PRONTO, EH... DIAMOND?

SAY, WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT?

LOOK HERE... NEXT TO JOSLIN'S HAND... A SHIRT BUTTON! ALL OF JOSLIN'S SEEM INTACT... THE KILLER MUST HAVE LOST IT IN THE SKIRMAISH... COME ON BUMPER!



WITH THE PUBLISHER'S LIMP BODY BEFORE HIM, BLACK DIAMOND RODE INTO TOWN...

WELL, I'LL BE... IT'S BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER! GLAD TO SEE... HEY! WHO'VE YA GOT THERE?

IT'S HANK JOSLIN, SHERIFF! HE'S DEAD! BUMPER AND I HEARD THE SHOT, BUT WHEN WE GOT TO THE SCENE, THE KILLER WAS GONE!

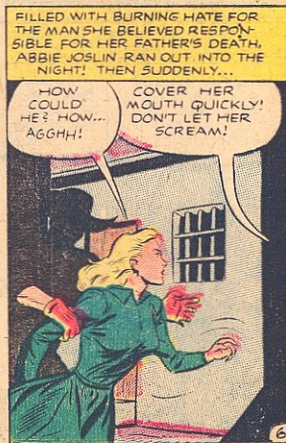
HEY, THERE, BLACK DIAMOND!



BOY, ARE YOU A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES! SOMETHIN' CRAZY JUST HAPPENED! WHEN I WENT TO MY ROOM A LITTLE WHILE AGO, SOMEBODY KNOCKED ME OUT! I JUST CAME TO BUT NOTHIN' SEEMS TO BE MISSING! HEY... IS THAT MR. JOSLIN?

YES, BILLY! HE... HE'S DEAD! SOMEBODY KILLED AND ROBBED HIM!





DON'T BE AFRAID, MISS JOSLIN! OKAY, BUMPER! LET HER GO... I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU... IT'S JUST THAT I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE US TALKING! WE MAY NEED YOU TO HELP PROVE BILL'S INNOCENCE!

BUT... THE EVIDENCE! IT'S ALL SO PLAIN!



YES... TOO PLAIN AND TOO PERFECT! I'VE TAKEN IT APART PIECE BY PIECE! THIS BUTTON, FOR INSTANCE, FROM YOUR FATHER'S CLOTHES! YOU SAW HOW DUSTY THE EARTH WAS THAT HE WAS LYING IN; IF THE KILLER LOST THIS BUTTON, SCUFFLING IN THAT DUST, SOME OF THE DUST WOULD'VE STUCK TO THE INK!

...AND THE INK IS CLEAR AND PURE! OH, THAT MEANS THE BUTTON WAS PLANTED AFTER THE DUST SETTLED AGAIN!



RIGHT! AND IF BILLY HAD DONE IT, WOULD HE HAVE CARRIED THE MONEY WITH HIM THAT HE HAD STOLEN FROM YOUR FATHER?

HEY, THAT'S RIGHT! HE WOULD'VE STASHED IT SOMEWHERE! AND REMEMBER HOW THE SHERIFF HAD TO ASK YOU IF YOU FOUND ANY CLUES! AS HE KNEW ABOUT THE BUTTON ALL THE TIME!

OH! AND AFTER WHAT I SAID TO POOR BILLY... BUT SURELY, YOU DON'T SUSPECT SHERIFF BELL?

THERE ARE TOO MANY LOOSE ENDS - STARTING WITH THE MURDER OF BILLY'S FATHER! IF BELL HAD DONE IT, HE WOULDN'T WANT BILLY AROUND TO FIGURE IT OUT! NOW WHO STOOD TO BENEFIT MOST FROM YOUR FATHER'S DEATH? SHERIFF BELL AGAIN! WITH ELECTION COMING UP, YOUR FATHER'S CRITICISMS COULD DEFEAT BELL!

WHY, OF COURSE! OH, I FEEL SO BADLY FOR WHAT I SAID!

THE ONLY TROUBLE IS... THERE'S NO WAY OF PROVING IT TO A

BACK! GET BACK IN THE SHADOWS! IT'S BELL AND ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES!



UNAWARE THAT THEY WERE OVERHEARD, BELL AND THE DEPUTY CONSPIRE IN THE SHADOWS...

WHAT D'YA WANNA SEE ME ABOUT, SHERIFF? SOMETHING WRONG!

NO! AN' THERE AIN'T GONNA BE! I'M AFRAID BILLY'S STORY MIGHT SOUND TOO PLAUSIBLE AT THE TRIAL - SO WE'RE GONNA GET RID OF HIM NOW! TAKE THIS GUN AND SNEAK IT TO HIM! TELL 'IM YOURS HIS FRIEND!

BUT... HE'LL ESCAPE THEN!

SURE! HE'LL MAKE ME LET 'IM LOOSE... BUT WHEN HE COMES RAGIN' OUTTA JAIL, YOU'LL BE READY TO SHOOT! EVERYBODY'LL THINK HE WAS GUILTY 'CAUSE HE TRIED TO ESCAPE!

WHY, THOSE DIRTY...

'SHHH! I'VE GOT A PLAN! GET OUT OF SIGHT, MISS JOSLIN, FAST!



RAPIDLY, BLACK DIAMOND OUTLINED HIS COURSE OF ACTION TO BUMPER!

I GOT YUH, DIAMOND! AS SOON AS I SEE THE DEPUTY HAND BILLY THE GUN AND GET SET, I SIGNAL YOU!

RIGHT! NOW KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN! YOU'VE GOT A FINE Vantage POINT AND NOBODY SHOULD SPOT YOU!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

BILLY, HSETTT! BILLY, HERE, I BROUGHT YOU A GUN! I'M ON YOUR SIDE... ANIT LOOKS PRETTY BAD FOR YOU! GIMME A COUPLE OF MINUTES TO BEAT IT BEFORE YOU USE IT!

HEY, THANKS! YOU'RE A REAL PAL!

THE MANGY COYOTE! I OUGHTTA PLUG I'M RIGHT NOW!

DIAMOND! THE DEPUTY'S SET! HE'S WAITIN' UNDER COVER FOR BILLY TO COME CHARGIN' OUT! HURRY!

FINE! STAY UP THERE, BUMPER! IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, AT LEAST, YOU'LL HAVE THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND!

C'MON, SHERIFF, OPEN THIS DOOR OR I'LL PLUG YOU! THEN, THEY'LL REALLY HAVE SOMETHIN' TO HANE ME FOR!

D...DON'T SHOOT, BILLY! I'LL OPEN UP! WHAT THE...?

BILLY! DON'T DO IT! IT'S A TRICK!

DIAMOND! GET BACK! I WON'T LISTEN TO YOU AGAIN! I WON'T HANG FOR ANOTHER MURDER I DIDN'T COMMIT! NOW, OPEN UP, SHERIFF...OR I'LL...

BILLY, DON'T BE A FOOL! THIS IS WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO DO! A DEPUTY'S OUT THERE...WAITING TO SHOOT YOU DOWN! MAKE THE SHERIFF WALK OUT THERE IN YOUR PLACE, BILLY!

WHA...NO...NO! YOU'RE LOCO! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT!

BILLY, THEY'RE AFRAID YOUR STORY'LL HOLD UP IN COURT AND THEY PLANNED TO GET RID OF YOU THIS WAY! BELL KILLED YOUR FATHER, SO HE COULD BE SHERIFF! THEN HE KILLED JOSLIN AND PLANTED EVIDENCE TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU DID IT! MAKE THE SHERIFF WALK OUT THAT DOOR, BILLY!

NO...DON'T! IT'S TOO DARK! I'M DEPUTY'LL KILL ME THINKIN' I'M YOU!

DIAMOND! Y...YOU'RE RIGHT!

TAKE YOUR CHOICE, BELL! YOU CAN SIT DOWN AND WRITE A CONFESSION, OR I'LL OPEN THIS DOOR AND SHOVE YOU OUT!

NO - DON'T DO THAT! GIMME A PEN AND PAPER! I...I'LL WRITE!

LATER, IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE...

GOLLY, DIAMOND, YUH SURE SAVED MY LIFE!

BUT IT'S SAD TO THINK... NOW THAT YOUR WORK'S DONE, YOU'LL BE LEAVING US!

NOT YET, WE WON'T! THERE'S STILL A MATTER OF THOSE HOODED OUTLAWS IN THIS AREA!

UH, UH, BUMPER! IT WAS BELL AND HIS DEPUTIES ALL ALONG... LOOK AT THESE MASKS!

BILLY...I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW SORRY I AM! I WANT YOU TO BE MY PARTNER ON THE PAPER! DAD WOULD'VE WANTED IT THAT WAY!

UH... ABBIE! I'VE GOT A BETTER PLAN FOR A PARTNERSHIP! MIND!

WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT, YOU BEWHISKERED MAVERICK! TURN AROUND AND RIDE! COME ON, RELIAPON!

THE END

GET YOUR MAN—AND HOLD HIM! USE TWIN-ALLURE

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It makes you lovelier, more alluring—the kind of girl every man wants, every man remembers.

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If either of your Walkie Talkie Sets should stop operating for any reason, our factory engineers will repair and return it to you at absolutely no cost.

TWO WAY
WALKIE TALKIES
only
\$3.49
postpaid
2 SETS
COMPLETE

100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE: We will refund your money in full within five days if these Walkie Talkies fail to do the amazing things stated in this ad.

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FRONTIER FACTS!

When famed scout and lawman Wild Bill Hicock offered his services to the Union during the Civil War, the government sent him behind Confederate lines as a spy. On a quest for information Hicock went to the headquarters office of a southern general, and almost upset the applecart by letting go with a wild west whoop when he saw a frontier pal of his there — also on a spying mission for the North. That friend of Hicock's was none other than Buffalo Bill Cody!



Maybe old time cowboys didn't know enough to come in out of the rain, but they found that the best way to keep cattle from stampeding during a thunderstorm was to sit in the saddle and sing to them! Even then there were times when the frightened steers would go on a rampage, and the cowboys would have to ride with them through the downpour till the animals stopped from sheer exhaustion!

They were tough, those frontiersmen. The noted sheriff, Charlie Siringo was herding cattle in his younger days. It was hot one afternoon, and he removed his boots before going wading in a stream. He stepped on a rattlesnake in the tall grass, and it bit him twice on his left foot. Siringo angrily beat the snake to death, and though his leg was swollen for a week the cowboy kept herding and tending cattle — without his left boot on. He had no medical attention at all!

When steers were herded into cattle cars for shipment to eastern markets, cowboys armed with long, pointed poles rode up and down the length of the cars, poking any animal that was lying down to make it stand, and avoid being trampled to death by other cattle. These spear-armed cowboys thus earned the name "cowpokes" — a name now applied to any cowboy!



Not all pioneers went west in prairie schooners, or even by land. Many whole family groups would pack their worldly possessions aboard huge flatboats called broadhorns for a voyage westward from the mouth of the Ohio River in Pittsburgh. The boats were built in that city — often of rotten lumber — and they'd often sink before getting very far. Those whose broadhorns remained afloat would sometimes fall prey to wily Indians, who would lure them ashore by wearing bearskins. The pioneers would go ashore to shoot themselves some bear meat, only to be attacked by the savages. Those who were able to survive the boatwrecking rocks of the river where it passed through Kentucky, usually fell into the hands of land pirates who lived in limestone caves on the river's edge. Those few who made it all the way to their western goals survived trials at least equal to those of their land travelling brothers!

Notorious outlaw Wess Harden was always prepared for arrest . . . and it was many years before law officers caught onto him. Even when Harden was thought to be disarmed he managed to pull a gun from somewhere and kill his captors. The badman had what became known as the Harden shoulder scabbard, in which he carried a small pistol, and for which arresting officers never thought to search. Wess Harden's invention was the forerunner of the shoulder holster carried by modern gangsters!

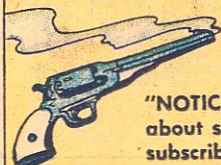
Wess Harden also invented a stunt. Wild Bill Hicock came to arrest him one time, demanded his guns "butts first". Harden started to hand Hicock his guns, spun them on his forefingers and in a flash he was covering Hicock. The Marshall was saved by other officers standing nearby.



END

GREAT STORIES OF LAW AND CRIME OF THE OLD WEST

Series I; Kit Carson



"NOTICE: To whom it may concern: That Christopher Carson, a boy about sixteen years old . . . thickset, light hair, ran away from the subscriber, living in Franklin, Howard County, Mo., to whom he had been bound to learn the saddler's trade, on or about the first day of September last. He is supposed to have made his way to the upper part of the state. All persons notified not to harbor, support, or subsist said boy under penalty of the law. One cent reward will be given to any person who will bring back the said boy." (Signed And Dated 1825)

Thus, did the colorful career of Kit Carson begin. No one ever collected the one-cent reward. The freckle-faced, sandy-haired kid left the saddle shop and his fourteen brothers and sisters far behind to follow the call of the wild country and adventure . . . the life of a trapper was his goal. Kit, the runaway, joined a wagon train lead by Captain Bent. As a teamster, on the wagon train making its way to Santa Fe, Kit was abruptly brought face to face with the danger and death traps that lurked on the Santa Fe trail, but aside from danger Santa Fe itself had little to offer the aspiring trapper, so Kit joined Kincaide, one of the older teamsters from the wagon train, and set out for Taos, the fur trading headquarters in the southwest. There was more tough, dangerous going for young Kit, and poverty had forced him to hock all his belongings except his treasured flintlock. Then poverty itself brought a stroke of good fortune. The time came when he had no choice -- he was forced to sell the flintlock, and the man who could give him the best price was Captain Ewing Young. Young admired Kit's spirit more than the flintlock, and young Carson was hired. With Captain Young and forty trappers, he rode into treacherous Apache country. His deadly aim saved himself and others from scalping at the hands of the savage Apaches. Quickly, the young, sharpshooting trapper embraced the tradition of his group. Before long Kit Carson had yanked many a top knot off a dead Apache and his rifle stock was studded with brass tacks -- one for each vanquished Apache attacker. As Ewing Young's right-hand man Kit got as far west as Los Angeles and built himself a reputation. By the time they'd gotten back to Taos and Santa Fe, Kit Carson was known as the most fearless opponent of the warlike Comanches, Utes, Apaches, Diggers and Blackfeet Indians.

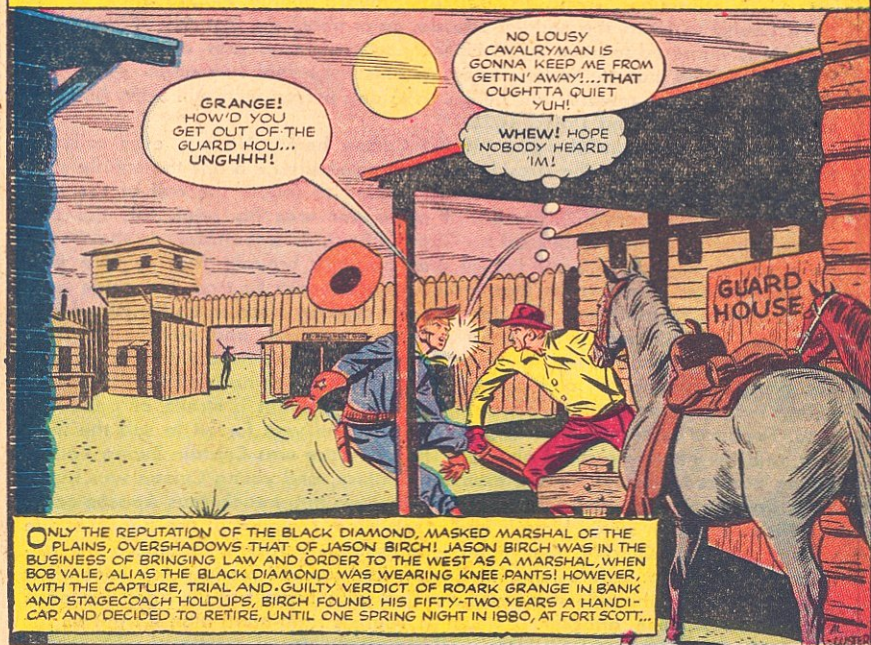
Carson became a free trapper and organized a group of six mountaineers who were to be known as Carson's Men, that small band that grew in number and became the most ferocious Indian fighters in the old West. It wasn't long before Carson was appointed Hunter to Bent's Fort, where he continued to combine trapping and Indian fighting for eight years. Then he chanced to meet John Charles Fremont -- pathfinder of the Rocky Mountains -- who lost no time hiring the celebrated Kit as his guide. It was a short jump from there to appointments as dispatch bearer to Washington, Lieutenant in the U. S. Army Rifle Corps and, before the Civil War, Indian Agent of New Mexico.

During the War, the man who began his career as a runaway teamster became Brigadier General Christopher Carson, of the Federal Army. He died in May 1868, before he was sixty, and was buried with full military honors at Old Fort Lyon . . . but his body, according to Kit's dying request, was moved to Taos, the only home of the old, fur-trapping Indian fighter.

Don't miss "The Dalton Gang" in the next issue!

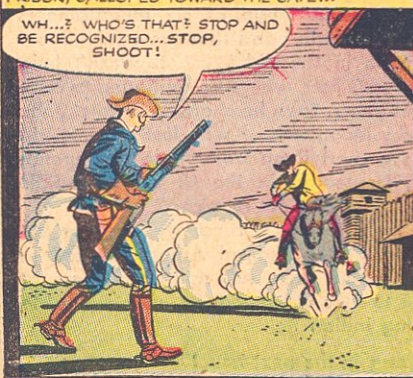
BLACK DIAMOND

MEETS "THE RUTHLESS RENEGADE"

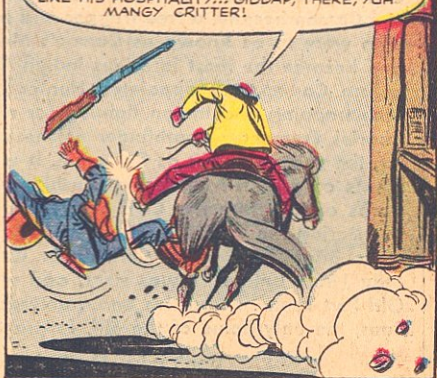


...LEAVING TO A NEARBY MOUNT, GRANGE, WHO WAS AWAITING TRANSFER TO COLORADO TERRITORIAL PRISON, GALLOPED TOWARD THE GATE...

WH...? WHO'S THAT? STOP AND
BE RECOGNIZED... STOP,
SHOOT!



SHOOT AND BE HANGED! GIVE THE COLONEL
MY REGARDS AND TELL 'IM SORRY, BUT I DON'T
LIKE HIS HOSPITALITY... GIDDAP, THERE, YUH
MANGY CRITTER!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

TWO DAYS LATER, BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER COME UPON THEIR FIRST SIGN OF LIFE AFTER A LONG AND TEDIOUS JOURNEY...

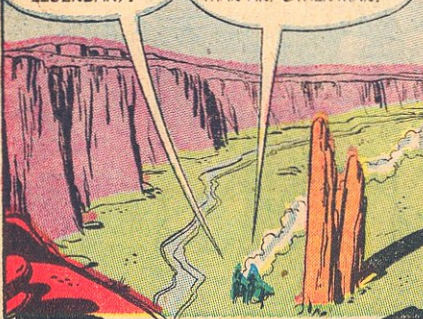
WHO-A, RELIAPON! SAY, THERE, YOU'RE A LITTLE BEHIND THE TIMES, AREN'T YOU? JASON BIRCH CAPTURED GRANGE OVER A MONTH AGO!

HEY...YOU'RE THE BLACK DIAMOND, AIN'T YUH? GUESS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE NEWS! GRANGE ESCAPED TWO NIGHTS AGO!



YA KNOW, DIAMOND, I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHETHER THOSE GREAT STORIES THEY TELL ABOUT BIRCH ARE JUST LEGENDARY!

NOT ON YOUR LIFE, BUMPER! HE'S THE MOST COURAGEOUS MARSHAL THAT EVER LIVED! HE'S DONE MORE TO BRING LAW AND ORDER TO THE WEST THAN ANY OTHER MAN!



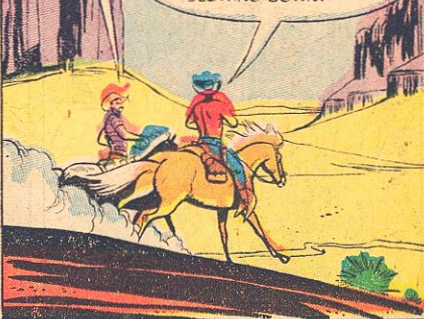
ESCAPED! DIAMOND... YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!

RIGHT, GRANGE IS THE TYPE THAT CARRIES A GRUDGE...EVERY MINUTE HE'S FREE, JASON BIRCH'S LIFE IS IN DANGER! GRANGE WON'T REST UNTIL HE'S HAD REVENGE! COME ON, BUMPER...WE'VE GOT TO GET TO U.S. MARSHAL HEADQUARTERS!



BUT WHY DID HE RETIRE?

HE'S AGING, BUMPER! HE'S LED A HARD, FAST LIFE—ALWAYS ON THE THE GO! BIRCH USED TO BE THE HARDEST RIDING, FASTEST DRAWING LAWMAN WEST OF PECOS! BUT HE REALIZED HE WAS SLOWING DOWN!



MEANWHILE, NOT FAR OFF, JASON BIRCH WAS USHERED INTO THE HEAD OFFICE AT THE U.S. MARSHAL HEAD-QUARTERS...

COME IN, JASON! GOOD TO SEE YOU! WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW, MR. THOMPSON! YOU HEARD ABOUT GRANGE'S ESCAPE! I WANT TO COME OUT OF RETIREMENT AND GO AFTER HIM!



1...I CAN'T ALLOW IT, JASON! YOU'VE GIVEN THIRTY YEARS TO THE SERVICE! THAT'S ENOUGH! GRANGE'S OUT YOU DOWN BEFORE YOU'D GET YOUR GUN OUTTA THE HOLSTER!

NOW WAIT A MINUTE...I'M NOT THAT OLD! LOOK, I KNOW GRANGE'S HABIT'S LIKE NO OTHER MAN DOES! WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR SANCTION, I'LL GO AFTER HIM ANYWAY! SO WHAT D'YOU SAY?



YOU'RE AN OLD FOOL, JASON!... OKAY...BUT I'M ONLY DOIN' IT BECAUSE WITH A MARSHAL'S RANK, YUH'VE GOT THE AUTHORITY TO FORM A LEGAL POSSE AND DEMAND AID FROM LOCAL SHERIFFS!

THANKS, MR. THOMPSON! I KNEW YOU'D SEE IT MY WAY! I'M TAKIN' THE NEXT STAGE TO DURHAM CAN YON! NO DOUBT GRANGE'LL RETURN TO HIS OLD HAUNTS! BE SEEING YOU!



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

TWO HOURS LATER, AFTER THE STAGE COACH HAD LEFT FOR DURHAM CANYON, BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER ARRIVED AT CHIEF THOMPSON'S OFFICE...

WELL, I'LL BE... WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THIS NECK OF THIS WOODS?

THE GRANGE AFFAIR! HE SWORE HE'D GET BIRCH AT THE TRIAL! I WANT TO MAKE SURE BIRCH IS ADEQUATELY PROTECTED BEFORE I GO AFTER GRANGE MYSELF!



REGRETFULLY, CHIEF THOMPSON TOLD OF BIRCH'S DECISION...

...AND THAT'S THE STORY! I TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT HE INSISTED THAT HE CAUGHT GRANGE ONCE, AND HE CAN DO IT AGAIN!

MAYBE WE CAN CONVINCE HIM! COME ON, BUMPER... WE'VE GOT SOME HARD RIDING TO DO, IF WE'RE GOING TO CATCH UP WITH THAT STAGE!

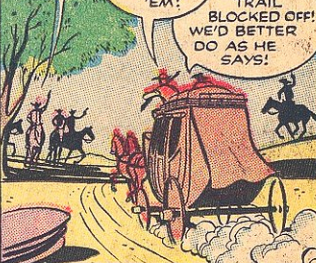


BUT, AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, ON THE TRAIL MANY MILES AHEAD...

WHOA! REIN UP THERE...OR WE'LL SHOOT TO KILL!

IT'S ROARK GRANGE'S GANG! I CAN PICK OFF A COUPLE OF 'EM!

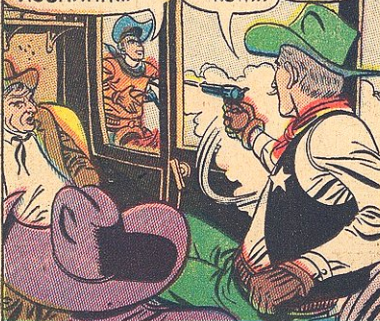
NO! WE'RE OUT-NUMBERED AND THEY'VE GOT THE TRAIL BLOCKED OFF! WE'D BETTER DO AS HE SAYS!



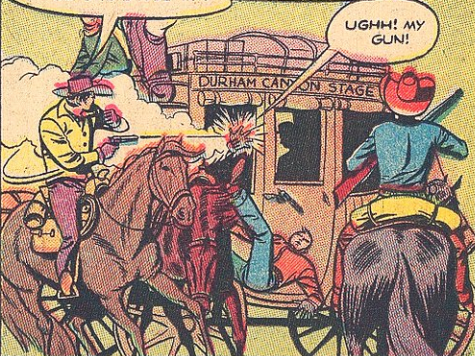
BUT GRANGE AND HIS RENEGADES HADN'T EXPECTED THE KIND OF TROUBLE JASON BIRCH COULD OFFER...

OKAY, EVERYBODY OUT! C'MON, CLIMB DOWN OUTTA THERE! AGGGHHH...

THEY MUST BE AFTER THE GOLD SHIPMENT... THERE! THAT TAKES CARE OF ONE OF 'EM! NOW...



WHAT THE... OH, SO WE HAVE A HERO IN OUR MIDST, EH? WELL, THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR SHOOTIN' IRON! NOW STEP DOWN OUTTA THERE, PRONTO! I LIKE TO GIT A GOOD LOOK AT A MAN BEFORE I KILL 'IM!

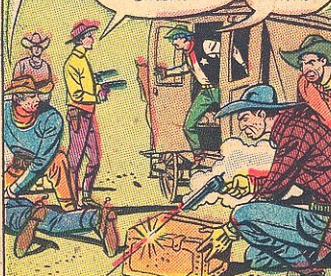


UGH!! MY GUN!

ROARK! ARCHIE'S DEAD! THAT GOT HIM CLEAN THROUGH THE HEARD!

YEAH! WELL, THIS CRITTER WILL PAY WITH HIS LIFE...WELL! IT'S MARSHAL BIRCH HIMSELF! YOU SAVED ME THE TROUBLE OF LOOKIN' FOR YOU, BIRCH!

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT ME, GRANGE! SHOOT AN' GET IT OVER WITH!



IN GOOD TIME, BIRCH! I KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE! I GET THE GOLD AND YOU! SAY! AN IDEA JUST HIT ME! SAM... GO THROUGH THE MARSHAL'S POCKETS! GET HIS CREDENTIALS!

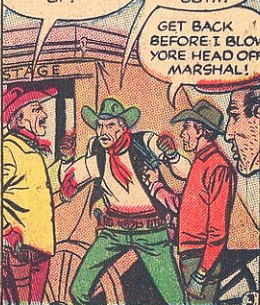
SURE, BOSS! AHH, HERE WE ARE!



GOOD! HA, HA! THIS IS THE BEST IDEA I EVER HAD! NOW, GET ALL THE OTHERS OFF THE COACH AND LINE 'EM UP!

GRANGE! YUH CAN'T DO IT! IT'S CRAZY... IT'S MAD! KILL ME IF YOU WANT, BUT...

GET BACK BEFORE I BLOW YORE HEAD OFF, MARSHAL!





WHAT D'YA WANT WITH THE PASSENGERS, ROARK? THEY DON'T LOOK WELLED ENOUGH TO ROB, AND WE'VE GOT THE GOLD!

I WON'T LET YOU DO IT, GRANGE! YUH CAN'T UGGHHH!

GOOD SWAT, SAM! TIE 'EM UP WHILE HE'S OUT! C'MON, FOLKS...LINE UP THERE!



WH...WHAT'RE YUH GONNA DO, MISTER? WHY...NO!

HE...HE'S GONNA KILL US! PLEASE, T... AGGHH!

FOR WHAT I HAVE IN MIND, WE CAN'T HAVE ANY EYE WITNESSES! NOW PILE 'EM BACK IN THE COACH! PUT ARCHIE WITH 'EM!

NO! UGH!

BANG! BANG! BANG!

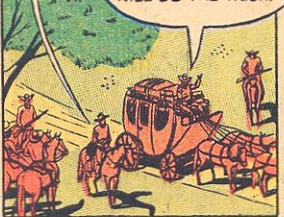
I DON'T GET IT, BOSS! WHY'D YOU HAFTA KILL 'EM ALL?

BECAUSE FROM NOWON, I'M JASON BIRCH! I'LL TAKE THE STAGE BACK TO TOWN MYSELF AND TELL 'EM ROARK GRANGE STOLE THE GOLD AND KILLED ALL THE PASSENGERS...BUT I FINALLY MANAGED TO DRIVE 'EM OFF! I'LL EVEN PRODUCE ARCHIE'S BODY! AN' TELL 'EM I KILLED ONE OF GRANGE'S MEN! I'LL BE MARSHAL BIRCH!



BUT EVERYBODY KNOWS BIRCH IS OLDER THAN YOU! AN' WHY BOTHER KEEPIN' BIRCH A PRISONER? WE' COULD KILL 'IM NOW!

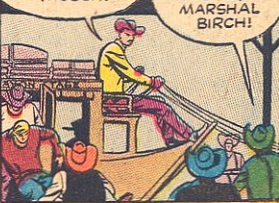
NO! POSIN' AS BIRCH, I INTEND TO DISGRACE HIM! THEN HE WON'T GET A HERO'S FUNERAL WHEN I DO KILL 'IM! HOW'S THAT FOR REVENGE? AS FOR LOOKIN' OLDER, SOME DUST IN MY HAIR, AND CHARCOALED WRINKLES WILL DO THE TRICK!



SOON, POSING AS JASON BIRCH, GRANGE DROVE THE STAGE INTO DURHAM CANYON AND TOLD HIS FABRICATED YARN...

AND LUCKILY, I ESCAPED INJURY, BUT ONLY AFTER THEY'D STOLEN THE GOLD SHIPMENT AND KILLED THE REST OF THE PASSENGERS! I GOT ONE OF 'EM, THOUGH!

TERRIBLE! TERRIBLE! BUT DESPITE THIS HORROR, YOU'VE COME THROUGH A HERO AS USUAL, MARSHAL BIRCH!



HEY! QUIET DOWN, ALL OF YOU...AN LISTEN! MAYBE THIS AIN'T A HAPPY OCCASION...WHAT WITH THEM PEOPLE THAT GRANGE KILLED, BUT AFTER WHAT MARSHAL BIRCH DID, I FEEL LIKE CELEBRATIN'!

SURE! HE'S COME TO GET GRANGE, AN' I SAY GIVE 'IM A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE!

GOOD THING BIRCH IS A MODEST GUY WHO ALWAYS STAYED IN THE BACKGROUND! NONE OF THESE PEOPLE KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE!



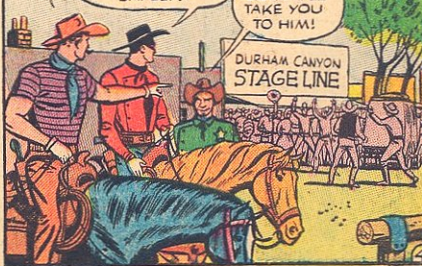
SOMETIME LATER, BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER ARRIVED IN TOWN AND SOUGHT OUT SHERIFF M'QUADE...

SAY, SHERIFF... WHAT'S THE BIG SHINDIG FOR?

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? IT'S...HEY, BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER! IT'S IN HONOR OF JASON BIRCH! HE ROUTED ROARK GRANGE'S GANG... SINGLE HANDED!

THEN HE ARRIVED SAFELY!

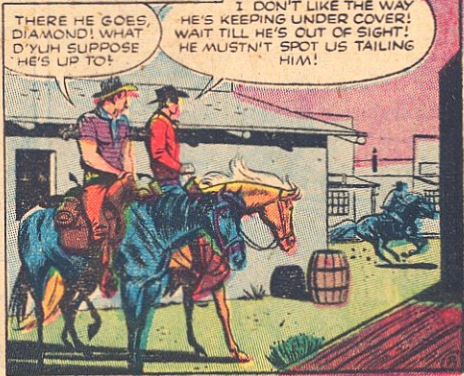
SURE! I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM!

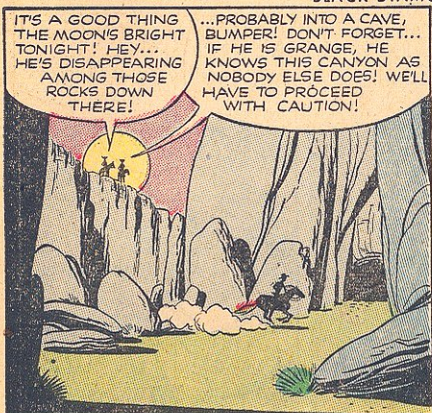




AT BLACK DIAMOND'S REQUEST, THE MORTICIAN REMOVED THE BULLET FROM THE SLAIN MEMBER OF GRANGE'S GANG...

REMAINING OUT OF SIGHT, THE TWO CRUSADERS FOR JUSTICE KEPT GRANGE UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE FINALLY, LATE AT NIGHT...





IT'S A GOOD THING THE MOON'S BRIGHT TONIGHT! HEY... HE'S DISAPPEARING AMONG THOSE ROCKS DOWN THERE!

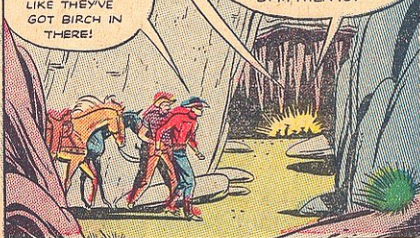
...PROBABLY INTO A CAVE, BUMPER! DON'T FORGET... IF HE IS GRANGE, HE KNOWS THIS CANYON AS NOBODY ELSE DOES! WE'LL HAVE TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION!

STEALTHILY, BLACK DIAMOND AND BUMPER CROPT TOWARD THE ENTRANCE TO GRANGE'S CAVE HIDE-OUT AND LISTENED...

FOR PETE'S SAKE, ROARK, WHAT GOOD'S IT GONNA DO YUH TO KEEP POSIN' AS BIRCH HERE?

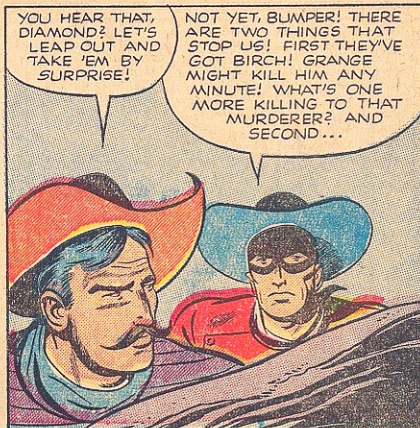
WE'LL LEAVE RELIAPON AND EL LOBO HERE! SEEMS LIKE THEY'VE GOT BIRCH IN THERE!

USE YOUR WITS! I'VE GOT THE WHOLE TOWN HOODWINKED— INCLUDIN' THE BLACK DIAMOND! AS BIRCH, I CAN GET THE LOWDOWN ON MORE GOLD SHIPMENTS!



...BUT HOW ABOUT BIRCH? WHEN'RE WE GONNA FINISH HIM OFF?

WHEN I SAY SO! I WANNA KILL THE BLACK DIAMOND FIRST! AND IF BIRCH'S BODY SHOULD BE FOUND, HE'LL BE ON HIS GUARD! I'M GONNA PULL A BIG HAUL, POSIN' AS BIRCH! THE PEOPLE'LL THINK HE DID IT! THEN WE MESS UP HIS FACE... MAKE HIS DEATH LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT! THAT'LL BE MY REVENGE!



YOU HEAR THAT, DIAMOND? LET'S LEAP OUT AND TAKE 'EM BY SURPRISE!

NOT YET, BUMPER! THERE ARE TWO THINGS THAT STOP US! FIRST THEY'VE GOT BIRCH! GRANGE MIGHT KILL HIM ANY MINUTE! WHAT'S ONE MORE KILLING TO THAT MURDERER? AND SECOND...



...LOOK AT THE STALACTITES OVER US! ANY LOUD NOISE LIKE SHOOTING WILL CAUSE VIBRATIONS, AND THEY'LL COME RIGHT DOWN ON' US!

THEN WHAT'LL WE DO, DIAMOND? WHAT CAN WE DO?



I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU CAN DO! RAISE YOUR HANDS NICE AND HIGH-UP WITH 'EM! REACH FOR THEM STALACTITES!

DIAMOND! WE...WE'RE CAUGHT!

HUH? TAKE IT EASY, BUMPER! WE'RE NOT LICKED YET!



WHA...WELL, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL! THIS IS AN HONOR! BOYS, THIS IS THE BLACK DIAMOND, AND HIS PARO! TAKE THEIR GUNS, SAM!



SURRENDER, GRANGE! THERE'S A FIFTY-MAN POSSE OUTSIDE READY TO TAKE YOU!

I THINK HE'S BLUFFIN', ROARK!

SHUT UP!



I'LL PROVE IT TO YOU! LET ME CALL OUT TO SHERIFF MCQUADE! HE'LL ANSWER ME!

OH, HO! I GET IT NOW! IT MAY KILL US ALL, BUT IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!



QUIET! OKAY, BLACK DIAMOND--CALL OUT! AN' DON'T PULL ANY FUNNY STUFF!

SHERIFF MCQUADE! GRANGE DOESN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE OUT THERE! ANSWER ME, SHERIFF MCQUADE!

RUMBLE RUMBLE!

THE TREMENDOUS SHOUTS ARE ECHOED AND REECHOED FROM ONE WALL OF THE CAVE TO ANOTHER--THE VIBRATIONS SHAKING THE STALACTITES! IN THE NEXT INSTANT, TONS OF ROCK AND EARTH AVALANCHED DOWN, WITH A ROAR, SEALING UP THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE...



WHAT TH... ROARK! LOOK!

W.WERE BEIN' BURIED ALIVE! HELP!

THIS WAS THE MOMENT FOR WHICH BLACK DIAMOND HAD WAITED! THE THUNDERING AVALANCHE ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE OUTLAWS--JUST LONG ENOUGH AND...



A PLEASURE, DIAMOND!

WHY YOU... UGH...

HERE'S A LITTLE HELP, BIRCH! GET THOSE ROPES OFF AND PITCH 'IN! I'VE HEARD YOU WERE A GOOD SCRAPPER!



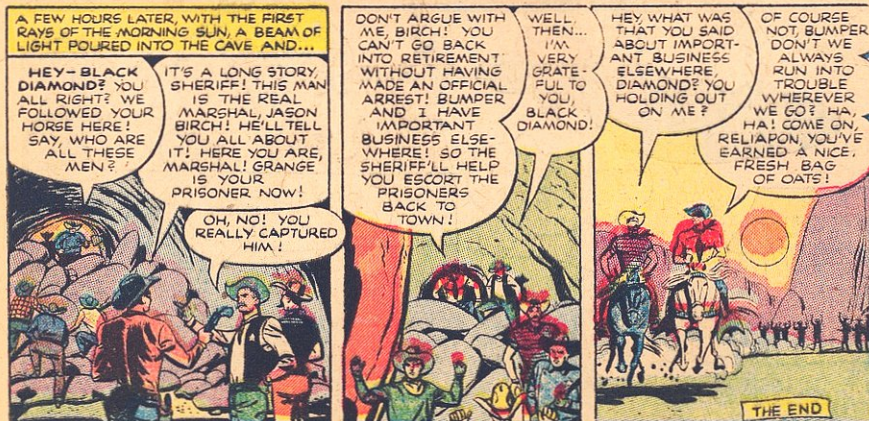
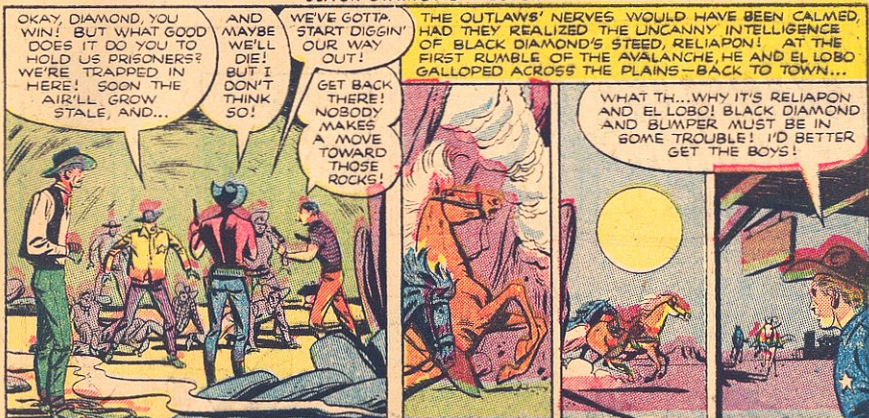
BANG!



AND THIS'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

OVER YOU GO, YOU SKUNK!

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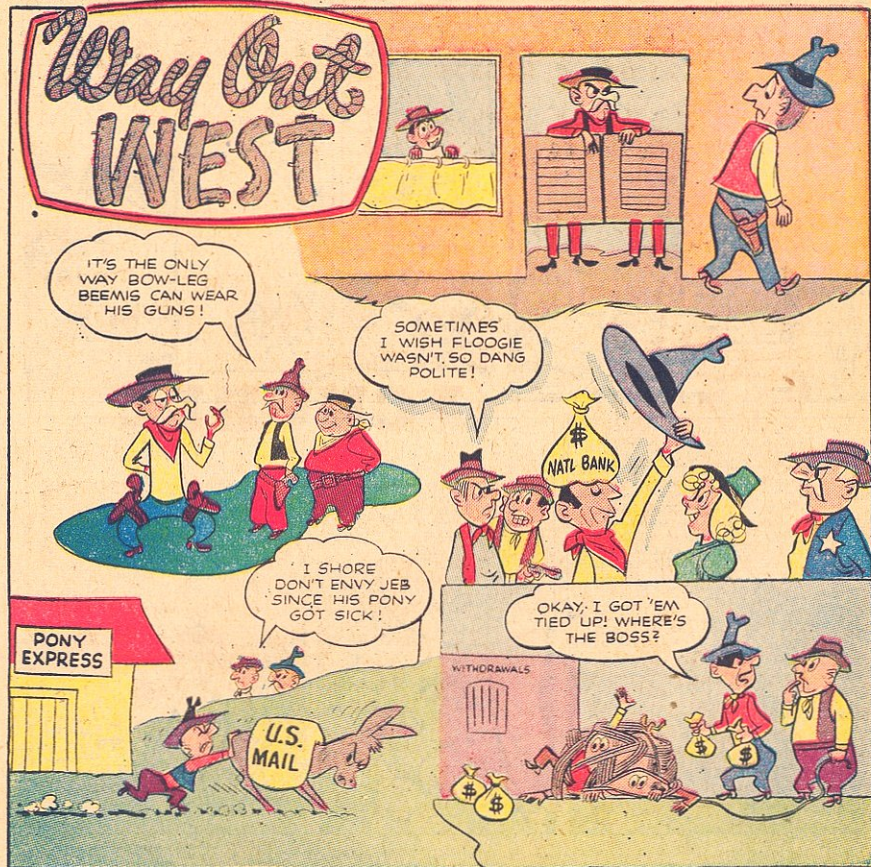
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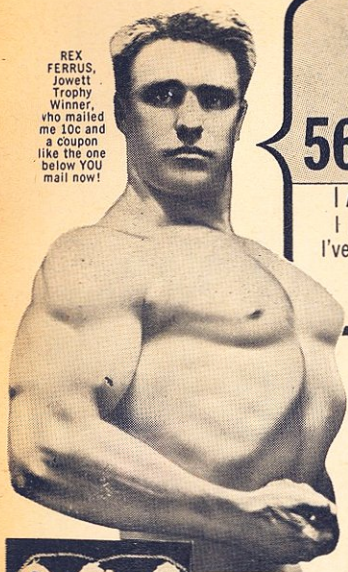
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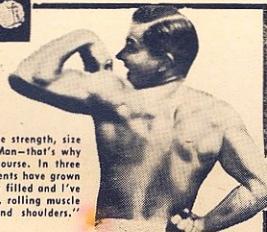
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